

Colorado's 2014 Public Health Improvement Plan

Fact Sheet

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“Public health improvement plans can be a vehicle for community engagement and shared responsibility for addressing population health improvement.”

- Public Health Accreditation Board

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Why create a statewide public health improvement plan?

The Colorado Public Health Act of 2008 (SB 08-194) required development of a comprehensive, statewide public health improvement plan on or before December 31, 2009, and at a minimum every five years thereafter. It is also a requirement for public health accreditation by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB). [Colorado's Public Health Improvement Plan of 2009](#) outlined a foundation of strategic recommendations to sustain an improved public health system. Since then, local public health agencies in Colorado have prepared local plans following a process of stakeholder engagement, community health and capacity assessments and prioritization of health issues. Additionally, a statewide public and environmental health assessment process was undertaken in 2013, which informs and lays the groundwork for development of the 2014 Colorado Public Health Improvement Plan. This plan will reflect the results of a participatory planning process that includes significant involvement by key sectors and can be used by partners across the public health system to prioritize existing activities and set new priorities.

What are the core components of a public health improvement plan?

Required by the 2008 Colorado Public Health Act:

- Assesses and sets priorities for the public health system and:
 - guides the public health system in targeting core public health services and functions through program development, implementation, and evaluation;
 - increases the efficiency and effectiveness of the public health system;
 - identifies areas needing greater resource allocation to provide essential public health services;
 - incorporates, to the extent possible, goals and priorities of public health plans developed by county or district public health agencies; and
 - considers available resources, including but not limited to state and local funding, and is subject to modification based on actual subsequent allocations.
- Prospectively covers up to five years, and is subject to annual revisions and the implementation schedule established by the state board.
- Is made available to the governor, the general assembly, the state board, county and district public health agencies, and other partners.

Required by PHAB:

- Statewide health priorities, measurable objectives, improvement strategies, and performance measures with measurable and time-framed targets
- Policy changes needed to accomplish health objectives
- Individuals and organizations that have accepted responsibility for implementing strategies
- Measurable health outcomes or indicators to monitor progress
- Alignment between the state health improvement plan and Tribal, local and national priorities

What will be included in the 2014 plan?

As defined in the 2008 Colorado Public Health Act, the plan will include or address the following:

- Identification and quantification of existing public health problems, disparities, or threats at the state and county levels
- *Relating to core public health services and public health infrastructure...*
 - Identification of existing public health resources at the state and local levels
 - Core public health services and standards for county and district public health agencies
 - Development of infrastructure that supports core public health functions and essential public health services at the state and local levels
 - A strategy for coordinating service delivery within the public health system
 - Detailed description of strategies to develop and promote culturally and linguistically appropriate services
 - Development, evaluation, and maintenance of, and improvements to, an information infrastructure that supports essential public health services
 - Detailed description of how public health services will be integrated and public health resources shared to optimize efficiency and effectiveness of the public health system
- *Relating to public health priorities...*
 - Explanation of the prioritization of one or more conditions of public health importance
 - Public health goals and specific recommendations for meeting them
 - Recommendations for legislative or regulatory action
 - Detailed description of the programs and activities that will be pursued to address existing public and environmental health problems, disparities, or threats
 - Estimation of costs and a timeline for implementing the plan
 - Measurable indicators of effectiveness and successes
 - Detailed description of how the plan will support county or district public health agencies in achieving the goals of their county or district public health plans

What is the timeline for development of the 2014 plan?

A structured stakeholder engagement and prioritization process will take place March-July 2014. The plan development will occur from August-October 2014, with final refinements and release in November of 2014.

